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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE - WILLIAM L. EAGLETON/AD
APPROVED BY S - MR.BREMER
P - MR. SISCO
EUR - MR. HARTMAN
S/S- MR. KUCHEL
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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UN

SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY'S JUNE 17 MEETING WITH CLERIDES
RE CYPRUS

1. CLERIDES CAME TO WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK JUNE 17 TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY. BEFORE RETURNING TO NEW YORK CLERIDES PAID A COURTESY CALL ON HOUSE SPEAKER ALBERT AND ATTENDED THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ADDRESSED BY FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL.

2. BOTH SIDES REVIEWED PAST DEVELOPMENTS, DISCUSSED THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. CLERIDES TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION IS MORE SERIOUS THAN IN THE PAST BECAUSE CYPRIOTS DOUBT THAT THE TURKS WILL NEGOTIATE, AND ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT THE EXPLANATION THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE THE CAUSE OF TURKISH INACTION. CLERIDES SAID THE TURKS WERE MISTAKEN
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IN RELYING ENTIRELY ON MILITARY FORCE SINCE THE GREEK

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CYPRIOTS COULD TAKE OTHER MEASURES. HE DECLINED TO SAY WHAT THESE WERE, BUT HINTED THAT FURTHER INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES MIGHT BE INVOLVED.

3. THE SECRETARY GAVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE TURKISH

POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS, NOTING THAT US INFLUENCE WAS LIMITED BY THE ARMS EMBARGO. HE EXPRESSED OUR CONTINUED DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL BUT OBSERVED THAT SINCE THE TWO SIDES WERE STILL FAR APART ON TERRITORY, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO MAKE ANY PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME.

4. DURING A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF GUARANTEES, CLERIDES SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS GREECE AND TURKEY SHOULD BE REMOVED AS GUARANTOR POWERS, AND THE US ACT AS GUARANTOR, PERHAPS ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERAL NEUTRAL STATES. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT SUCH A SCHEME WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN CONGRESS BUT PERHAPS A FORMAL US EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT WOULD BE FEASIBLE.

5. AT ONE POINT CLERIDES INSISTED THAT IF THERE WERE NO MOVEMENT ON TERRITORY IN THE JULY 24 INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS THERE MUST AT LEAST BE SOMETHING ON REFUGEE RETURN TO HELP THE GREEK SIDE AT THE TABLE. HE CONCEDED THAT GREEK REFUGEES WOULD NOT WANT TO LIVE UNDER A TURKISH REGIME BUT THOUGHT A NEUTRAL ZONE COULD BE SET ASIDE FOR THEM WITHIN THE TURKISH AREA. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE TURKS WOULD AGREE TO SUCH ZONES.

6. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING CLERIDES RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE QUESTION WHETHER THE TURKS WOULD NEGOTIATE EVEN IF THEIR DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WERE RESOLVED. HE SEEMED TO HAVE DOUBTS BUT ADMITTED HE HAD NO CARDS TO PLAY.

7. THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MEETING WAS VERY RELAXED AND FRIENDLY, AND THE EXCHANGE WAS FRANK AND UNINHIBITED. IN ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES AFTERWARDS, CLERIDES CALLED THE SITUATION "VERY COMPLICATED AND VERY DIFFICULT." HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE US ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. KISSINGER

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